

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A headgear for a patient interface device comprising:
a headpiece having ~~a substantially frusto-conical shape~~ contoured panels, each panel including an upper edge having a length and a lower edge having a length, the length of the upper edge is shorter than the length of the lower edge; and
a connecting strap attached to the headpiece and adapted for releasably connecting the headgear to ~~such a~~ the patient interface device.
2. (Currently amended) The headgear of claim 1, wherein the headpiece comprises:
a rear joining piece positionable along a rear portion of a patient's head;
a front joining piece positionable along a front portion of such a patient's head;
and
~~a first contoured panel and a second contoured panel, wherein each of the first and the second contoured panels extend from the rear joining piece to the front joining piece.~~
3. (Original) The headgear of claim 2, wherein the connecting strap is an upper connecting strap attached to the front joining piece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the patient interface device.
4. (Original) The headgear of claim 3, further comprising a lower connecting strap attached to the rear joining piece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the patient interface device.

5. (Original) The headgear of claim 4, wherein the upper and the lower connecting straps include hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the headgear to the patient interface device.

6. (Original) The headgear of claim 5, wherein the upper and lower connecting straps include a loop fastener portion on the exterior thereof and an end portion having a hook tab portion, wherein each hook tab portion is adapted for threading through a connecting element of the patient interface device and securing to the loop fastener portion.

7. (Currently amended) The headgear of claim 2, further comprising a crossover strap extending from one of the ~~first or the second~~ contoured panel-panels to a ~~remaining other one of the first or the second~~ another contoured panel.

8. (Currently amended) The headgear of claim 7, wherein the crossover strap includes hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the crossover ~~strap to the first or the second~~ contoured panel.

9. (Currently amended) The headgear of claim 2, wherein each of the ~~first and the second~~ contoured panel-panels has an arch-shape having an upper edge having a concave curvature and a lower edge having a convex curvature, ~~and wherein an upper circumference of the headpiece along the upper edges of the first and the second contoured panels is shorter in length than a lower circumference along the lower edges of the first and the second contoured panels.~~

10. (Original) The headgear of claim 1, wherein the headpiece is formed from an elastomeric material.

11. (Original) The headgear of claim 1, further comprising a stabilizer attached to the headpiece and adapted to stabilize a conduit connected to the patient interface device.

12. (Currently amended) A headgear and patient interface device comprising:

1) a patient interface device adapted to fit over a portion of the face of a patient and having a connector element; and

2) a headgear comprising:

a) a headpiece having contoured panels, each panel including an upper edge having a length and a lower edge having a length, the length of the upper edge is shorter than the length of the lower edge a substantially frusto-conical shape, and

b) a connecting strap attached to the headpiece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the connector element.

13. (Currently amended) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 12, wherein the headpiece comprises:

a rear joining piece positionable along a rear portion of a patient's head;

a front joining piece positionable along a front portion of such a patient's head;

and

~~a first contoured panel and a second contoured panel, wherein each of the first and the second contoured panels extend from the rear joining piece to the front joining piece.~~

14. (Original) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 13, wherein the connecting strap is an upper connecting strap attached to the front joining piece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the patient interface device.

15. (Original) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 14, further comprising a lower connecting strap attached to the rear joining piece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the patient interface device.

16. (Original) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 15, wherein the upper and the lower connecting straps include hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the headgear to the patient interface device.

17. (Original) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 16, wherein the upper and the lower connecting straps include a loop fastener portion on the exterior thereof and an end portion having a hook tab portion, and wherein each hook tab portion is threaded through the connecting element of the patient interface device and secured to the loop fastener portion.

18. (Currently amended) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 13, further comprising a crossover strap extending from one of the ~~first or the second~~ contoured ~~panel~~ panels to a ~~remaining other one of the first or the second~~ another contoured panel.

19. (Currently amended) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 18, wherein the crossover strap includes hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the crossover strap to the ~~first or the second~~ contoured panel.

20. (Currently amended) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 13, wherein each of the first and the second contoured panels has an arch-shape having an upper edge having a concave curvature and a lower edge having a convex curvature, ~~and wherein an upper~~
~~circumference of the headpiece along the upper edges of the first and the second contoured~~
~~panels is shorter in length than a lower circumference along the lower edges of the first and the~~
~~second contoured panels.~~

21. (Original) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 12, wherein the headpiece is formed from an elastomeric material.

22. (Original) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 12, further comprising a stabilizer attached to the headpiece and adapted to stabilize a conduit connected to the patient interface device.

23. (Original) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 12, wherein the patient interface device is a nasal mask, a nasal/oral mask, or a full face mask.

24. (Currently amended) A system for delivering a breathing gas to a patient comprising:

- 1) a gas flow generating device that produces a flow of gas;
- 2) a conduit having a first end portion operatively coupled to the gas flow generating device and a second end portion, wherein the conduit carries the flow of gas from the gas flow generating device during operation of the system;
- 3) a patient interface device coupled to the second end portion of the conduit, the patient interface device having a connector element; and
- 4) a headgear comprising:
 - a) a headpiece having contoured panels, each panel including an upper edge having a length and a lower edge having a length, the length of the upper edge is shorter than the length of the lower edge ~~a substantially frusto-conical shape~~, and
 - b) a connecting strap attached to the headpiece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the connector element.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the headpiece comprises:
a rear joining piece positionable along a rear portion of a patient's head;
a front joining piece positionable along a front portion of such a patient's head;

and

a first contoured panel and a second contoured panel, wherein each of the first and the second contoured panels extend from the rear joining piece to the front joining piece.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the connecting strap is an upper connecting strap attached to the front joining piece adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the patient interface device.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, further comprising a lower connecting strap attached to the rear joining piece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the patient interface device.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the upper and the lower connecting straps include hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the headgear to the patient interface device.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the upper and the lower connecting straps include a loop fastener portion on the exterior thereof and an end portion having a hook tab portion, and wherein each hook tab portion is threaded through the connecting element of the patient interface device and secured to the loop fastener portion.

30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 25, further comprising a crossover strap extending from one of the ~~first or the second~~ contoured ~~panel~~ panels to a ~~remaining other~~ one of the first or the second another contoured panel.

31. (Currently amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the crossover strap includes hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the crossover strap to the first or the second contoured panel.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the headpiece is formed from an elastomeric material.

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24, further comprising a stabilizer attached to the headpiece adapted and adapted to stabilize a conduit connected to the patient interface device.

35. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the patient interface device is a nasal mask, a nasal/oral mask, or a full face mask.

36. (New) A headgear for a patient interface device comprising:
a headpiece having:

a substantially frusto-conical shape defined by a first contoured panel and a second contoured panel, wherein each of the first and the second contoured panels extend from the rear joining piece to the front joining piece,

a rear joining piece positionable along a rear portion of a patient's head, and

a front joining piece positionable along a front portion of such a patient's head;

a connecting strap attached to the headpiece and adapted for releasably connecting the headgear to such a patient interface device; and

a crossover strap extending from one of the first or the second contoured panel to a remaining other one of the first or the second contoured panel.

37. (New) The headgear of claim 36, wherein the crossover strap includes hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the crossover strap to the first or the second contoured panel.

38. (New) A headgear and patient interface device comprising:

1) a patient interface device adapted to fit over a portion of the face of a patient and having a connector element; and

2) a headgear comprising:

a) a headpiece having:

a substantially frusto-conical shape defined by a first contoured panel and a second contoured panel, wherein each of the first and the second contoured panels extend from the rear joining piece to the front joining piece,

a rear joining piece positionable along a rear portion of a patient's head, and

a front joining piece positionable along a front portion of such a patient's head,

b) a connecting strap attached to the headpiece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the connector element, and

c) a crossover strap extending from one of the first or the second contoured panel to a remaining other one of the first or the second contoured panel.

39. (New) The headgear and patient interface device of claim 38, wherein the crossover strap includes hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the crossover strap to the first or the second contoured panel.

40. (New) A system for delivering a breathing gas to a patient comprising:

- 1) a gas flow generating device that produces a flow of gas;
- 2) a conduit having a first end portion operatively coupled to the gas flow generating device and a second end portion, wherein the conduit carries the flow of gas from the gas flow generating device during operation of the system;
- 3) a patient interface device coupled to the second end portion of the conduit, the patient interface device having a connector element;
- 4) a headgear comprising:
 - a) a headpiece having a substantially frusto-conical shape defined by a first contoured panel and a second contoured panel, wherein each of the first and the second contoured panels extend from the rear joining piece to the front joining piece, and
 - b) a rear joining piece positionable along a rear portion of a patient's head, and
 - c) a front joining piece positionable along a front portion of such a patient's head,
- 5) a connecting strap attached to the headpiece and adapted to releasably connect the headgear to the connector element; and
- 6) a crossover strap extending from one of the first or the second contoured panel to a remaining other one of the first or the second contoured panel.

41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the crossover strap includes hook and loop components for adjustably connecting the crossover strap to the first or the second contoured panel.